

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO DOE WASHDC
DOE GERMANTOWN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5495

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 05129

USEEC

DOE FOR J. VANDERRYN, IA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EEC
SUBJECT: ENERGY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN THE EUROPEAN
- COMMUNITIES

REF: (A) STATE 59817, (B) LETTER PURPLE/VANDERRYN,
- SEPT 20, 1977 (SEE ALSO BRUSSELS 77 EC A-360)

1. THE EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL REFERRED TO IN REF (A) WAS INITIALLY SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL IN MAY 1977 (A COPY WAS SENT TO DOE BY REF (B)). IT WAS CONSIDERED AT THE DECEMBER 13 COUNCIL MEETING BUT WAS REFERRED BACK WITHOUT APPROVAL FOR FURTHER STUDY. IT WAS EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR RECONSIDERATION AT THE MARCH 1978 ENERGY COUNCIL, BUT THIS MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED. IT SHOULD BE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING, EXPECTED IN MAY 1978.

2. THERE ARE STILL SOME RESERVATIONS FROM CERTAIN MEMBER
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STATES ABOUT SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION, BUT COMMISSION OFFICIALS FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THESE WILL BE CLEARED UP PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING. MR. ROLF MOEHLER, CHEF DE CABINET FOR COMMISSIONER BRUNNER, ALSO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

3. THE MOST CURRENT DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

SHOWS SOME MODIFICATIONS OF THE VERSION TRANSMITTED BY REF (B). THE PROGRAM IS NOW FOUR YEARS INSTEAD OF THREE; COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IS TO BE BETWEEN 25 PERCENT AND 49 PERCENT (VERSUS 40 PERCENT IN ORIGINAL VERSION); AND THE FUNDING CEILING IS ABOUT \$180 MILLION (VS \$160 MILLION). THE FUNDING CEILING IS ONE OF THE UNRESOLVED ISSUES AND MAY CHANGE (PROBABLY DOWNWARD).

4. NO SPECIFIC PROJECTS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION. THE LIST IN REF (A) IS MERELY ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE TYPE AND NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT COULD BE SUPPORTED BY THE COMMISSION IF THE REGULATION WAS APPROVED. ACTUAL PROJECTS WILL BE SELECTED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS THAT ARE TENDERED BY INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS AFTER THE REGULATION IS ISSUED.

5. THE COMMISSION SENT A LETTER TO EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES (THROUGH UNICE, THE UNION OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES), SOLICITING SUGGESTIONS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECTS THAT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING AS PROPOSALS IF THE REGULATION IS APPROVED. RESPONSES WERE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE COMMISSION. COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE RESPONSE (ABOUT 100 ANSWERS) WAS FAR BETTER THAN ANTICIPATED AND DEMONSTRATED THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM.

6. CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND PROCEDURES OF THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMISSION PROGRAM, WHICH WILL INVOLVE DETAILED AND PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR EACH PROJECT UNTIL THE CONTRACT IS SIGNED, IT IS NOT EASY TO SEE HOW THE U.S. CAN INTERACT WITH THE COMMISSION AS A COOPERATING PARTNER IN THE PROGRAM. TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE COMMISSION IN THE SELECTION AND DEFINITION OF PROJECTS, IT WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSARY THAT WE OFFER TO HELP SUBSIDIZE THE PROGRAM. OTHERWISE, THE COMMISSION COULD NOT LET US BE PRIVY TO THE PRE-CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. OUR RETURN FOR HELPING FUND THE PROJECTS WOULD BE IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY OF ANY TECHNOLOGICAL SUCCESSES AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE TECHNICAL SCOPE AND SELECTION OF THE PROJECTS. IF SUCH AN OFFER IS NOT FEASIBLE, OUR PARTICIPATION IN ANY INDIVIDUAL PROJECT WOULD OCCUR ONLY AFTER A CONTRACT HAS BEEN LET AND WOULD LIKELY BE LIMITED TO EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON SIMILAR PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY DOE. PENDING FURTHER GUIDANCE, MISSION HAS NOT DISCUSSED POSSIBLE MODALITIES OF COOPERATION WITH COMMISSION. WE HAVE ADVISED THEM OF TENTATIVE DOE INTEREST. MORRIS

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